

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M000929A

November 9, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary */RA/*

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON RISK-INFORMING
SPECIAL TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS (SECY-00-0194),
9:30 A.M., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2000, COMMISSIONERS'
CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH,
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff and a panel of stakeholders that included representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute, Union of Concerned Scientists, South Texas Project Operating Company, and Nuclear Utility Backfitting and Reform Group on risk-informing special treatment requirements. The staff should continue to focus on the principle of risk-informed regulation, i.e., that risk insights should be combined with other factors (operating experience, engineering judgment, etc.) to establish requirements that better focus licensee and regulatory attention on design and operational issues commensurate with their importance to public health and safety.

The staff should continue to work with stakeholders to resolve differences associated with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) standard on PRA quality and should encourage the ASME to seek public comment on Revision 13 of the standard. The staff should also continue its review of the NEI peer review process and inform the Commission of important insights gained during this review.

The staff should ensure that, regardless of the approach used to judge probabilistic risk analysis quality, all information supporting decision-making be available to all interested stakeholders.

Lessons learned from the current Option 2 activities should be incorporated early, as appropriate, in the development of Option 3 and the subsequent rulemaking activities.

Due to the important and dynamic nature of Option 2 activities, the staff should provide the Commission with succinct written updates on status, significant progress or problems every three months.

cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
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